is most probably endemic to *Cryptosepalum* woodland on Kalahari sand, with its associated understory of dense thicket. *Cryptosepalum* has remained the only vegetation type poorly known ornithologically and if *P. makawai* occured in either evergreen forest or the widespread *Brachystegia* woodlands, all of which have been very thoroughly worked, its discovery would hardly have been so long delayed. The probability, therefore, is that *P. makawai* may qualify as a "rare bird" in the sense of Hall and Moreau [*Bull. B.M.* (*N.H.*) *Zoology*, 8(7): 1960, 316], with a total distributional range restricted to within a distance of 250 miles in any one direction.

That such distinctive forms as the red-necked race of crested guineafowl *Guttera edouardi kathleenae* White; *Batis margaritae kathleenae* White (=*Batis capensis kathleenae* in White, "*Revised Check List of African Flycatchers*, etc." 2, 1963: 25); *pace* Benson and White, *Check List of the Birds of Northern Rhodesia*, should appear largely to be confined to this vegetation type, to which one might add *Malaconotus viridis* (Vieillot) in this part of its range, points to its significance as an evolutionary centre.

It is suggested that a suitable trivial name for *P. makawai* is White-chested Tinker-barbet. In life it could be most easily distinguishable from the Golden-rumped Tinker-barbet by its creamy white, not grey throat and upper chest.

We have to thank Mrs. B. P. Hall who has examined the type, for reading through and commenting upon this description, Mr. Derek Goodwin who not only read through the description in draft, but whose valued comments are expressed in the note that follows, and Commander A. M. Hughes for the drawing.

Some remarks on the new barbet

by Derek Goodwin

I have examined the type of *Pogoniulus makawai* and compared it with the series of *Pogoniulus* species in the British Museum (Natural History). As *P. makawai* and *P. bilineatus mfumbiri* are sympatric, their differences cannot be racial in character. I think the authors are correct in considering *makawai* to be a good species but that, until further specimens are identified, the possibility of its being an aberrant individual of *P. bilineatus* cannot be entirely excluded.

The colour differences between *makawai* and *mfumbiri* involve the former having more extensive black pigmentation on the head, underwing and centre of belly (lack of superciliary stripe, blackish throat and belly spot) combined with a lack of melanin suffusion on the breast and belly feathers so that these are white or yellowish-white, not grey as in *mfumbiri*. This latter seems responsible for the clearer white breast and yellow belly of *makawai*. These feathers do not entirely lack melanin as they show the narrow, dusky shadow bars mentioned in the description and which are not found in *P. b. fischeri* which is otherwise very close to *makawai* in colour of its under parts. *P. makawai* also lacks melanin on the bases of its back and mantle feathers which are yellowish-white at the base in striking contrast to the dark grey of *mfumbiri* and other forms of *bilineatus*. It

would be most unusual, but not unprecedented for an aberrant individual to have more melanin than normal in some areas and less elsewhere; an example from the barbets is a specimen of *L. undatus* (sketch in Goodwin 1964) which has increased areas of black pigment generally but lacks melanin on some parts of the head where normal individuals are black.

P. makawai is most like *P. bilineatus* and there cannot, I think, be any likelihood that it is the geographical representative of some other known species, such as *P. subsulphureus*. The difference in curvature of the culmen and apparent width of the bill seem to me not in themselves of great significance as some other forms of *bilineatus* have heavier bills than is usual in *mfumbiri* and a specimen of *P. b. mfumbiri* (British Museum number 1939.10.1.525) from the Didinga Mountains in Southern Sudan has a bill whose size and curvature seems to me similar to that of *makawai*. As, however, specimens of *mfumbiri* taken from or near the type locality of *makawai* all have rather more slender and conical bills, this may well indicate an ecological difference where they overlap. It would certainly be surprising if an aberrantly coloured individual happened also to have a slightly aberrant bill.

The differences of colour pattern between *makawai* and *mfumbiri* are certainly more striking than those between *bilineatus* and *subsulphureus* in some areas where these latter species overlap. Moreover, and I think this may be important, this difference is most obvious if a specimen of each is held and viewed head-on when the white sub-ocular stripe of *mfumbiri* which continues over the base of the upper mandible, its white throat, greyish breast and white superciliary stripe give it an appearance very different from that given by the black forehead and throat, separate sub-ocular stripes and yellowish-white breast of *makawai*. It seems probable that this difference could function as an isolating mechanism as there is abundant circumstantial evidence that the coloration of the head and upper breast of birds is often of primary significance in this respect.

I conclude, therefore, that *makawai* is best considered as a new species, at least provisionally. Further confirmation of its status is, however, desirable. It would be interesting to discover if there are vocal differences such as there are between the calls, or at any rate the known calls, of *bilineatus* and *subsulphureus* (Chapin 1939, Young 1946).

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The nesting habits and eggs of the Rufous-tailed Weaver, *Histurgops ruficauda* Reichenow

by Myles Turner and Charles R. S. Pitman

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On 23rd May, 1946, N. R. Fuggles-Couchman of the Tanganyika Agricultural Department obtained 17 miles south-west of Arusha c/3